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REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Bani-Sadr Interview on Situation

LD172136 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has granted an interview to the correspondent of Algerian television, in which he dealt with the situation in Iran following the triumph of the revolution and the scope for the future with regard to development plans in the country.

After expressing his profound feelings toward Algeria and its people, he turned to Iranian development plans. He stressed the need for planning and its great importance through which Iran could insure its full independence on the economic, political and cultural levels. He explained that this meant the creation of an independent society without any outside pressures, since--as he pointed out--Iran's economy is presently linked to the West as was the case in the past with regard to the Iranian army, which was subservient to foreign states and which performed the role of policeman in the region. The same thing applies to the agricultural and industrial fields.

The Iranian president pointed out that in view of all this, his government is now considering a program that will provide for ridding Iran of dependency on others and developing the national economy, which will insure harmony for Iranian society and enable them to adapt to the economic situation.

Replying to a question about the structure of an Islamic culture to replace both Eastern and Western cultures and whether it is possible to achieve this in Iran on the economic, social and intellectual levels, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized that the Islamic experience in Iran is of a regime which serves humanity, its progress and prosperity and its total liberation from every influence and bond, pointing out that this experience is being governored by numerous features, the most important of which are freedom and independence, that is doing away with all foreign forces.

With regard to the review of the situation in Iran 1 year after the triumph of the Iranian Revolution and the holding of four democratic elections in the country. Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said that stability in the country is not at all connected with the problem of minorities, because this problem is only an outlet for the continuation of imperialist conspiracies.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in this connection that we believe that the solution of this problem is represented in the granting of equal rights to all. In order for every individual to obtain his rights, we shall endeavor to achieve this with all our resources and strength, and we shall confront all pressures so that these rights will not be an outlet for the continuation of imperialist plots or for one specific group to pressurize another.

Bani-Sadr on Hostages' Release

LD181256 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] As regards Iran's ties with the Arab Gulf states, President Bani-Sadr reaffirmed to Algerian television that Tehran's policies vis-a-vis the Arab states and particularly the Arab Gulf states and Iraq are based on cooperation in the interests of all. He said that the Islamic states could form a self-reliant entity which would help in the establishment of a sound framework for a large community with common culture, history and relations.

To a question on the future of Iran in the advent of the Islamic Republic, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said that the future in Iran is for the Islamic Revolution and that this is all the more possible since weakness has already been partially turned into strength. In this case, he said, the Iranian experience will form the purpose of peoples suffering from oppression and injustice and seeking total independence.

Broaching the issue of the American hostages held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by Iranian students, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in particular: We have already made our position clear in three objective conditions, the most important of which is sending the shah back for trial. If Washington agrees to this condition we will release the hostages. But if America tries to resort to intrigue and to interfere in our domestic affairs then the world will realize that we are not flaunting the laws and norms of international law.

On the future of Iranian-U.S. relations, President Bani-Sadr said: Iran has a clear-cut policy. If the United States of America wants to establish relations with Iran on the basis of equality and noninterference in our internal affairs then we will reestablish relations on the bais of noninterference in our internal affairs in accordance with the usual international norms.

Khalkhali on Hostages, Trial

NC181309 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[By Marie Joannidis]

[Text] Qom, Iran, March 18 (AFP)--The American hostages who are spies should be put on trial once Iran's Parliament convenes, and the other hostages should be sent home, itinerant judge Sadeq Khalkhali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

The judge, the top figure of the Islamic courts that have condemned more than 800 people to death, also called for a wide-scale purge of the army and civil services. He was elected to Parliament in this Shia Muslim holy city in the first round of voting on March 14.

Ayatollah Khalkhali said that in his personal opinion, it would be pointless to keep holding the 50 hostages in exchange for the shah: "The shah will never be handed back to Iran even if there were 2 million American hostages in Tehran.

"I have **never** said hand over the shah. He should be executed. That is why we have sent Islamic fedayeen to kill him as soon as they find him." The Iranian Government would not only fail to have the shah extradited, but would be unable to recover one rial (the Iranian currency unit) of his fortune, predicted the judge, whose short, pudgy physique does not match his steely reputation.

The ayatollah told this correspondent the Islamic courts set up after the overthrow of the shah "will never be dissolved because they are written down in the Koran... in fact they will take over the entire court system." He deplored that there had not been enough executions of counterrevolutionaries, but denied accusations that he was cruel.

The telephone in his house was being repaired. "The phone has been frightened ever since it saw me," he joked, his sharp eyes twinkling behind his spectacles.

The Shi'ite dignitary said Parliament's tasks should include building up the economy, recovering weapons "in the hands of irresponsible people" since the revolution, finding work for the unemployed, building housing and purging government ministries and army. He said it was incorrect to view the first stage of the Parliamentary election as a victory for the Islamic Republican Party after its setback in the presidential election. The results were a victory not for that part but "for the Islamic line" as a whole, he said.

Qotbzadeh Letter to International Court

JN190634 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has sent a second letter to the International Court of Justice in which he stated that the court must study Iranian-U.S. relations during past years in all their aspects.

The Iranian foreign minister added that the United States has continued its direct intervention in Iranian affairs and has unashamedly exploited Iran and committed many crimes against the Iranian people, contrary to human and international norms.

KHOMEYNI ISSUES MESSAGE ON AMNESTY, LISTS EXCEPTIONS

LD181808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] On the eve of the new year, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, tonight issued a message on the general amnesty ['afv-e 'omuni] for prisoners. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The noble Iranian nation has bitter memories of the security organization and a group of the security forces, and of individuals who resembled religious leaders but who disguised themselves in the frocks of religious leadership and Islamic spokesmen. Most of these groups received their punishment after the Islamic revolution.

But according to reports received from the country, there are conspiracies by misguided groups, who seem to have been inspired from abroad and who wish to play the same role as they did during Reza Khan's period and who, by the imperative defeat [as heard] of the committed clergy and by inflicting harm on the security forces, want to drag the beloved country to the left or right and treat the nation the way they did under the satanical regime. This is a great danger and neglect of it and indifference toward it will lead to the defeat of Islam and the country.

I myself witnessed the reign of Reza Khan from the coup to the time of the disgraceful downfall of the regime, and have seen one after another the conspiracies that the foreign agents carried out. I was a witness when they discredited the religious leadership under the name of reaction and other disgraceful names in the eyes of the nation and broke the great fortresses of Islam, one after another, through the hands of youths who were unaware of the depth of the conspiracies, and opened the way to the ominous aims of the colonialists. And court poets, mercenary writers and attached spokesmen--who opposed Islam and servants to the country and Islam, including pious men and great learned men of the first rank--with their pens, tongues, poems and essays separated them [presumably the clergy] from the nation and the nation from them and spread the ominous shadow of colonialism and tyranny for 50 years over all of our beloved country in such a way that no one was able to speak the truth.

I warn you, the noble and oppressed nation, that I can see the followers of that great Satan and other satans throughout the country who, with a calculated plan, have designed the same program of Reza Khan's period and are like demons in the process of implementing it. It is a plan for weakening the committed religious leadership, weakening the security forces under the name of SAVAK and those attached to the satanical regime.

Therefore, being conscious of this danger and in order to prevent this evil plan and in order to protect the beloved country and the great Islam, on the eve of the new year I declare a general amnesty for all the strata whose hands have not been sullied with the blood of innocent people, who have not issued orders to kill people, who have not been torturers, who have not issued orders for tortures which have resulted in deaths and who have not misused public funds and the property of the people; whether they are members of the military or other security forces, whether members of SAVAK, or the pseudo-clergymen who were dependent on and connected with the former regime.

From this date onward no one has the right to transgress against anybody else, whether they are responsible officials or irresponsible groups.

His excellency the president is dutybound to emphatically prevent the present chaos and disorder by resorting to force and to submit the guilty individuals, regardless of the group to which they belong, to the hands of the law. His Excellency Mr Qoddusi, the revolution prosecutor general, is dutybound to summon the guilty individuals, regardless of the group to which they belong, to the court, and to force them to be brought to the courts through the president and to carry out justice regarding them.

As for the persons who are accused of one of the above matters, they cannot be granted an amnesty. No one has the right to transgress against them except the competent courts and officials who are delegated by the courts for handing them over to the courts. And all the Iranian courts are dutybound, after the completion of the files of the accused, to send the files or copies of them to Tehran to Mr Qoddusi, the revolution public prosecutor, for final consideration. Mr Qoddusi is dutybound to form a committee or committees composed of Shari'a judges to consider the files of this type and to assist in the implementation of Islamic justice.

After considering the crimes of those convicts who are in prison, Mr Bani-Sadr is to give mitigation by one degree to those groups which qualify for this mitigation, and for those who can be released he is to release them. I ought to point out that this amnesty and mitigation is conditional on these persons, after their amnesty and release, not committing their previous deeds or similar deeds. Otherwise, in addition to the punishment for their present crimes, the punishment for the previous crimes shall be revived.

I ask all the brethren in faith to refrain from vengeance and seeking pretexts for the pleasure of God almighty, and to adopt foregiveness and clemency while following the great Prophet--peace be upon Him--and the mercy of God.

I ask the dear youths to show clemency and to employ the manner of beneficence, which is the choice of God and on which the glorious Koran has laid emphasis.

I beseech almighty God for the safety and happiness of all.

[Signed] Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeyni, 18 March 1980.

REPORTAGE ON CHARGES OF FRAUD IN MAJLES ELECTIONS

Commentary on Allegations

JN181906 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The correctly guided atmosphere of democracy continues to prevail even after the elections, as manifested by some organizations' loud accusations against the elections, describing these election results as being fraudulent. Indeed, the hostile mass media organs quickly seized this opportunity to circulate such accusations, exaggerating their importance in the process, in order to deal blows at all the results of the elections, though it is well known that by some parties merely voicing such accusations, this reflects a peerless democratic reality, a reality which Iran is living.

Here the following question arises: Is it possible to rig elections in such a correctly guided democracy? Who is practicing rigging and for whom? This question is posed to those who questioned the truth of some results of the elections.

It is impossible for regimes which are based on the strength of the masses to rig the elections for the following reasons:

1. As long as the choice is the people's and as long as the state gives the people the opportunity to choose through granting them the necessary freedom, the people will choose well. Thus, those who are accepted by the people are also accepted by the government, which is founded on the people. It is impossible for the revolution to betray the people through rigging realities since such rigging would be contradictory to the revolution's own interests, which are based on the masses' free will.

2. Those who practice rigging must have a secret power to carry out such an activity, which proves that rigging is practiced only under dictatorial regimes, which are based on their intelligence and secret suppressive organs. Indeed, it is impossible to practice even the simplest form of rigging in a state which up to now has neither a recognized power nor secret intelligence; a state which only possesses the strong masses who undertook, out of their own initiative, to supervise the elections.

3. The masses' supervision in Iran is the basic guarantee that the state, which believes in constructive criticism, will not deviate from the right path. Indeed, it will be impossible for a president, who is forced to meet with those representing the opposition and to discuss various issues with them, including their own criticisms of the state, to dare to embark on such an adventure as rigging the elections.

4. Those alleging that the elections were rigged are a group led by the people's mojahedin, whose leader met with the president to discuss the issue of rigging the elections. However, this same organization has so far won three seats in the National Islamic Consultative Assembly. It follows from this that if the elections were actually rigged, this organization's three members, including their leader, would have been prevented from winning seats in the assembly.

5. Those alleging that the elections were rigged have still not directed their accusations against a specific party, nor did they give the names of those who practiced rigging or for whom the rigging was practiced.

They did not even cite proof of rigging. Thus, there must be something behind this rabid campaign, which is playing the same tune as that campaign being waged by the aggressive organs, associated with imperialism, which only aims at dealing blows to the revolution's every achievement and casting doubt on every progressive practice by the revolution.

President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr called on all those alleging that the elections were rigged to substantiate their accusations with proof. The president also stated that should such proof be valid, we will announce the annulment of the electoral results. This statement reflects a correctly guided democracy which stems from our noble religion, a religion founded on the people's will.

The president confidently affirms that the elections will be annulled should these allegations be substantiated, since he is confident of his march and aware that the result would be the same as long as the masses remain the strong backbone of the revolution; as long as the masses are aware of the internal and external conflicts.

Interior Ministry Statement

LD182250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued 18 March by the Interior Ministry on the holding of the first round of elections for the National Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The first round of elections for the National Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic was held in a satisfactory manner in most of the country's constituencies, with the cordial cooperation of the people despite pressure and violation of regulations by some of the political groups.

In connection with the shortcomings that existed in some constituencies and polling stations, some complaints have been made. These ought to be submitted to the central supervision committee of the constituency area for legal proceedings. The supervision committee is dutybound to present the results of its consideration to the executive committee in 2 days' time and, in case deviation from the normal and proper course of elections is proved, to invalidate the results concerned. Then the credentials for the elected representatives are to be issued.

In the event that the complaints concerned relate to the manner of the work of the supervision committee, the executive committee or the governor, the Interior Ministry, by sending investigators, carefully investigates the problems and difficulties and either cheating or fraud is ascertained or the credentials eventually are issued. Consideration of all other complaints about the election is up to the National Consultative Assembly which, after the oath-taking ceremonies, will start studying all complaints and credentials.

Because various stages of handling complaints have been meticulously set out in the election law, which will be enforced, those compatriots who have objections concerning the election are assured that even the slightest fraud will not be ignored. Of course, this study requires adequate opportunity and a calm atmosphere and ought to be completed without force and pressure by the objecting groups. Therefore, in order to avoid contaminating the social climate and to prevent the elimination of election documents by conspirators who were involved in dishonesty and cheating in some of the polling stations, we ask all the struggling Iranian nation to strictly avoid all forms of marches, demonstrations and sit-ins and with full discretion and alertness to be the guardians of the calm atmosphere in which the supervision and executive committees, investigators and governors conduct their work.

This is so that those whose last hopes will be dashed by the establishment of the National Consultative Assembly will not be able, under the pretext of objecting to and complaining about the election, to portray as doubtful or to eliminate election documents--which contain the right of the majority of the people--by raising a clamor and hullaballoo.

[Signed] Mohammad Reza Mahdavi Kani, Interior Ministry supervisor.

BBC on Accusations

TA190641 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[From "Correspondents' Reports"]

[Text] Even before the results of the first round of Iran's Parliamentary elections started coming in, there were widespread allegations of ballot-rigging and the accusations have increased in recent days. The government has responded to this widespread public concern by setting up a commission to investigate the ballot-rigging charges, but Alex Brody in Tehran says it looks as if the government intends that the results will stand.

[Begin Brody recording] Initially the president said the elections would be declared null and void if serious cheating was proved. Then he said certain areas might have to poll again. The latest statement said that although there was dissatisfaction in some areas, others were satisfied. Any irregularities that might be proved were probably a result of inefficiency, excessive partisanship and lax organization rather than any planned conspiracy to subvert the democratic process. One observer described the elections as free but probably not very [word indistinct]. Well over half the results are now known and the majority of those seats producing a clear result on the first ballot have been won by the alliance of religious groups led by the clergy-dominated Islamic Republican Party. Results from Tehran have not been declared yet but it is clear that well-known personalities of many shades of opinion are doing well.
[end recording]

KHOMEYNI TO REST, DECLINES NEW YEAR'S VISITS

LD190645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, the imam's office in Qom has announced that since the leader of the revolution is spending a period of rest around the turn of the year, he is therefore excused from seeing visitors. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Since his excellency Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is spending a period of rest, he is therefore excused from receiving visits at the turn of the year.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's office, Qom.

[Dated] 19 March 1980

Rafsanjani 18 Mar Visit

LD182122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The former supervisor of the Interior Ministry and member of the Revolution Council, [Rafsanjani], was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution, this morning, and they discussed the country's affairs.

At the end of this meeting, [Rafsanjani] told the PARS NEWS AGENCY: in the course of these talks, the Imam once again emphasized that, as already ordered, all possibilities should be put at the disposal of the foundation for aid to the disabled and relatives of the martyrs of the revolution.

BANI-SADR VISITS ARMED FORCES STAFF HEADQUARTERS

LD181904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this morning went to the headquarters of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and visited the different parts of the headquarters of the Joint Staff.

Dr Bani-Sadr issued orders about the purging of the Armed Forces of incompetent elements and the safeguarding of the rights of the personnel of the Armed Forces who were ignored in the past.

The visit of our president to the headquarters of the Joint Staff ended at 1500 today.

POLICE IDEOLOGY DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

LD181307 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Imam Khomeyni's publicity office has selected Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Hoseyni Hamadani as supervisor of the recently created Political Idology Department of the police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to which post he was appointed by Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, the supervisor of the Interior Ministry. He began his duties today.

OFFICIAL DESCRIBES NEW RADIO, TELEVISION POLICY

Tehran TIMES in English 4 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Tehran--The Revolutionary Council has directed the newly appointed administrative council of the Radio and Television Organization to work freely and independently in promoting the noble ideals of the Islamic revolution without any bias or prejudice.

The new policy for the Radio and Television Organization was prepared by the Revolutionary Council Sunday night after the five-member administrative council of radio and television resigned. A new administrative council composed of three members was appointed to reorganize the affairs of this important publicity media.

In a policy directive the Revolutionary Council announced that the Radio and Television Organization should serve the people and the Islamic revolution in a befitting manner and refrain from making it a spokesman for personalities and political or sectarian groups.

The radio and television should be administered in a way so as not to misguide the people and refrain from creating differences among the various factions of the people, the Revolutionary Council said.

Explaining the new policy of the radio and television, the official spokesman for the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hasan Habibi, said that only factual news should be included in news bulletins of radio and television network. Factual reporting, he added, needs no censorship and also keeps the people informed about developments taking place in the country.

Referring to the entertainment policy, Habibi said that radio and television should pay greater attention towards the entertainment programs but added that these programs should be in full accordance with Islamic principles.

As for films, Habibi said, the radio and television authorities should seek guidance from film productions in Third World countries together with making strenuous efforts to produce revolutionary and educative films for television.

The Revolutionary Council also directed the radio and television authorities to make necessary arrangements for producing special programs based on Islamic ideology, Habibi said.

The Islamic ideology was the most important subject which should be given a prominent place in radio and television programs in a bid to transform the Iranian society strictly towards Islamic principles and according to Moslem culture.

Habibi further said that the new policy for radio and television was ironed out in the presence of President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr. The main idea behind it was to create necessary confidence among the people of the country.

He said the government paid full respect and regard to different views and ideologies and thus the radio and television should make necessary arrangments for free discussions and debates. This is necessary to keep the people well informed about views of different sections of society and to create a better understanding among the people with different shades of opinions.

CHERIKHA-YE FEDA'I-YE KHALQ PLANS NEW PARTY

Tehran TIMES in English 4 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Tehran--The Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq are planning to form a party of the Iranian working class in the very near future, according to an announcement by its party spokesman at a general conference yesterday at which members of the press both local and foreign were present.

Three members of the Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq, two of whom were present on the TV debate with the president answered questions put to them at the conference which lasted almost three hours.

A wide range of subjects were covered but the answers to most were rushed through and other questions left unanswered and put off for later, because the members of the organization were keen to concentrate on the subject of the assassination of the four members of the Turkoman peasant's council.

The representatives of the Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq said that the debate recorded on TV was free and open and least censored of most programs that appeared on TV. They urged the members of the organizations to study carefully the arguments that were presented at that debate.

In regard to the latest reports of the assassinations of the four Turkoman leaders they said that local investigations had revealed a number of new facts. "The corpses of the four dead persons were thrown at the spot at which they were found after being carried in a white ambulance with a large red light atop it, between the hours of 1:30 and 2p.m.," they said.

A further bit of evidence was the presence of another ambulance accompanied by a large black car, and also a Paykan, both of them carrying armed civil and uniformed people who were seen at the spot. All of this should be investigated further, they said.

The members further announced that they will soon, probably next Friday, hold a demonstration in Azadi Square and talk in relation to election issues in Turkomansahra.

Meanwhile, the Feda'i-ye Cherikha-ye Khalq called for the appointment of a national commission to probe into the recent killings in Gonbad region.

Addressing a press conference in Tehran, two fedayeen leaders said that the people should also sne their representatives to Gonbad ifthey wanted to known the facts about the recent incidents which took place in Turkoman region.

Fedayeen leaders said that their televised debate was a great achievement for the people of Iran and added that over a period of one year they were denied the use of radio and television which had always been distorting facts about them.

In reply to a question the fedayeen leader said that the televised debate was not censored and it was a good opportunity for the people of Iran to know about the activities of this militant organization.

Leaders of the Feda'i-ye Cherikha-ye Khalq said that they would actively support every action of President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr for the welfare and upliftment of poor farmers.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON ACCUSED SPY

ID181854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The spokesman of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs today announced: Following the statement issued by the Revolution Guards corps about Miss Victoria Basiri, in order to inform the public we announce that the year that Miss Basiri officially joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was 1958. Therefore she has been working in this ministry for 21 years.

On 7 December 1979, she was appointed supervisor of the General Inquiries Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 1 March 1980, Miss Victoria Basiri was demoted from this position on the orders of the administrative and financial undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was given the job of an ordinary employee in the Passport Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Contrary to the bill approved by the Islamic Revolution Council, which says that the arrest of the employees of each ministry should be carried out after the prior knowledge of the relevant minister, on 19 October, 1979, [as heard] she was arrested without the knowledge of the minister of foreign affairs.

Therefore, up till now, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not been able to get the slightest information concerning the exact reason for her arrest or the allegations leveled against her. At the same time, one of the former undersecretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a contact today with the PARS NEWS AGENCY announced that Miss Victoria Basiri, who has been arrested due to the allegation of spying, has never been cultural or economic adviser and her title has been supervisor of the students' affairs department. It should be added that none of the supervisors had the right to put their signature [on official documents].

The former under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added: A long time ago, this lady was put at the disposal of the personnel department by my deputy and the personnel department later made her supervisor of the general inquiries department. Later on, she was appointed deputy director of the passport department by the administrative under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He added: The revolution corps came to me and presented their documents and asked for her arrest and I handed Miss Basiri over to them.

SEIZED TEHRAN APARTMENTS TO BE SOLD TO FAMILIES OF MARTYRS

Tehran TIMES in English 4 Mar 80 p 1 WA

[Text] Tehran--The government has seized hundreds of unoccupied Tehran apartments and will sell them to long-standing residents, using capital raised to finance low-interest mortgages, it was announced yesterday.

An official said that Iranian authorities would grant four percent, 15-year mortgages, but only to people in Tehran for over 10 years, to avoid exasperating the constant flow of Iranians towards the capital.

He said a recent government survey had revealed some 50,000 unoccupied apartments, many concentrated in a northern Tehran residential suburb popular with families linked with the deposed shah's regime. Most of these families have either fled, are in jail or have been executed.

Priority would be given to the families of "martyrs of the revolution", the official said.

INCIDENTS OF DISORDER, DISCORD REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Bani-Sadr on Flag Burning

LD181611 Tehran BAMDAD in Persian 13 Mar 80 p 1, 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "Following the Attack on the National Front Marchers and the Burning of the Iranian Flag, President Expresses His Disgust"]

[Excerpt] Following the statement issued by the National Front of Iran concerning the march staged by its members and the burning of the Iranian flag by a group of assailants, this open sacrilege was condemned by politicians, party leaders and state authorities, who declared that the Islamic Republic's Constitution had been violated.

In conversation with a PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent, the president's chief secretary declared that the president had expressed his disgust at the act. Acting interior minister and revolution council member Mahdavi Kani told the PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent:

"I have not yet received the report on this incident. In previous statements we have opposed such acts and condemned them. We have also instructed all Komiteh, police security and other officials to detain individuals committing such acts. If the people come across instances they should hand over the individuals, and we shall strongly oppose such deeds."

Tabriz Sit-In, Resignations

JN181724 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Tehran, 18 March--Over 2,000 workers of a tool factory in Tabriz staged a sit-in strike, protesting against nonpayment of their allowances on the occasion of the Now-Ruz day. The strikers declared that from now on, the factory's director general will have no right to carry out his duties and that the sit-in will continue until their demands are met.

Representatives for the workers are holding talks with officials in the Province of East Azerbayjan on this subject.

In another development, 28 employees of the Islamic Courts' public prosecution body have tendered a collective resignation, protesting against the nonacceptance of the resignation of Goddusi, head of public prosecution. In a letter published by the evening newspaper KEYHAN today, the employees said that they cannot work in an atmosphere permeated by the influence of opportunists and bad administration.

Qoddusi tendered his resignation 3 days ago, but the reasons for his resignation were not disclosed.

Kurdish Group Releases Hostages

LD181742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] As the result of the efforts of the special Kordestan delegation, two of the hostages taken by the Komiteh group were released this afternoon in Mahabad. Announcing this news, Mr Haqgu, governor general of West Azarbayjan, told the PARS reporter in Orumiyeh: The two people released were Behruz Pur-Yavari, an army officer, and Hoseyn (Amand), a local Revolution Guard from Marivan, who were handed over to the Mahabad barracks.

According to the same report, discussions are being continued for the release of the other hostages.

Inviolability of Tehran University

Tehran TIMES in English 4 Mar 80 p 1 WA

[Text] Tehran--Security forces and militant groups will not be allowed to intervene inside the premises of Tehran University after a recommendation prepared by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr is approved by the Revolutionary Council.

The recommendation was being prepared by President Bani-Sadr in close cooperation with Minister of Science and Higher Education Dr. Hasan Habibi and the members of the Administrative Council of Tehran University, for submission to the Revolutionary Council for final approval.

This was decided yesterday at a meeting called by the president and attended by Habibi and the Tehran University Administrative Council members.

It was agreed upon in principle at this meeting that adequate measures should be taken by the government to safeguard the sanctity of the higher educational institutions and universities.

The recommendation would be based on five basic points approved at this meeting.

These points said that the security forces shall have no right to interfere in any way inside the premises of Tehran University until and unless they were asked to do so by the management. The management should also seek permission from the Tehran University Council at least 24 hours before calling the security forces to the university.

Another point said that a thorough probe should be made by government authorities into the conduct of those who create disturbances inside the university premises.

These points also included a provision for preventing the interference of government organs in the affairs of the university and all problems should be solved in consultations with the university authorities.

The government should take necessary steps to ensure the basic freedom guaranteed by the constitution and aggressive groups should be warned and condemned through the news media and radio and television, these points said.

OIL, GAS DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Oil Price Increase

NC181545 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 18, (AFP)--Iran is to increase its oil prices from April 1 and will not hestitate to use oil as a weapon, Oil Minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar said today. Without detailing the size of the price increase, he said: "We would like to use oil as a diplomatic tool as others do."

Speaking at a reception marking the 29th anniversary of the nationalisation of the Iranian oil industry, he added "if it is necessary for us, we will use oil and other things at our disposal as political weapons." He declared: "If it is in our interest to give our oil to one country, we will, If not, we won't."

He said that when U.S. President Jimmy Carter had last week increased the price of a barrel of oil in America by four dollars, nothing had happened, but "if the producing countries increased oil by a few dollars and a few cents, the industrialised countries began to complain."

Mr. Mo'infar charged that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had been like a "toy in the hands of imperialism," adding that Iran--to its credit--had changed that.

Mo'infar Interview

DW181144 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1800 GMT 17 Mar 80 DW

[Report Hans Scheicher interview with Iranian oil minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, answers in Persian with German translation superimposed; date and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] How much is the oil price supposed to increase this year?

[Answer] You have to expect that the oil price will be about 40 a barrel by the end of 1980.

[Question] We have a foreign trade deficit in Germany of about dm9 billion; this year a deficit of dm20 billion is even expected, mainly because of the increasing oil price. Do you want to kill our economy?

[Answer] It is hard to answer this question. The industrial states demand higher and higher prices for their products. When the oil price doubled in 1979 it had only a two-thirds effect on worldwide inflation. The costs for a refinery are now five times as high as in 1973. Sixty percent of the oil price which the consumer pays in your country is being cashed in by your giverrments as taxes and by the multinational oil companies. So it is not just the oil countries that cause worldwide inflation. When oil was so cheap, the industrial countries were urged to consume more and more. It is a crime to sell oil that cheaply because then there will be none in the world in about 30 or 40 years. That is a crime against humanity.

Talks With Soviets

LD191103 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Amit Roy dispatch: "Iran Turns Off Gas for Russia in Price Row"]

[Text] Tehran--Iran has turned off gas supplies to Russia after a breakdown in talks over new gas prices, it was reported yesterday in Tehran.

The Russians were not willing to pay $4 (1.82 pounds sterling) per 1,000 cubic ft demanded by Iran. The Soviet negotiating team, which was willing to go up to $2.20 (1 pounds sterling), has now returned to Moscow.

Mr Mo'infar, oil minister, said Iran was willing to sell gas to the Soviet Union "if they treat us like an independent country and give us our just rights." He suggested that Iran could ignore the revenue from selling the oil-head gas to Russia. "This income can be gained by increasing the price of a barrel of oil by 50 cents.

On returning to Moscow, a member of the negotiating team said: "Russian machinery and equipment prices have remained unaltered as have the credit arrangements that Russia has offered (Iran)." Meanwhile, the Islamic students at the besieged United States Embassy in Tehran appear to be behind the arrest of a senior woman diplomat at the Iranian foreign office on charges of spying for the United States.

Mrs Victoria Bassiri, who was a cultural and economics adviser before she was promoted to deputy head of the passport bureau, is alleged to have passed secret information to Mr William Daugherty, who has been accused by the students of being a member of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mrs Bassiri, who was arrested on March 12 by Revolutionary Guards, received a salary of more than 600 pounds sterling a month in her last job. She also collected $3 (1.37 pound sterling) a month for her alleged spying activities. She had apparently confessed her task was to gather information about the conference of non-aligned nations, the activities of Iranian students in socialist countries, and the "general policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

Iranians, following the old Sassanian calendar, celebrate new year tomorrow and Ayatollah Khomeyni, Iran's religious leader, last night announced an amnesty for certain classes of prisoners such as those "who have not killed anybody, or ordered any killings, or who have not been involved in torture."

The amnesty would cover military personnel, former SAVAK agents and people who had pretended they were clergymen. Reports claimed 219 people would be freed.

Our Geneva correspondent writes: The Red Cross said yesterday in Geneva that a doctor sent by the Iranian national society visits the hostages in the American Embassy "from time to time" to check their health. This came to light after THE DAILY TELEGRAPH published a photograph showing "a representative of the international Red Cross" taking the blood pressure of a hostage.

This was, in reality, an Iranian doctor acting for the national society, said the Red Cross spokesman. International Red Cross delegates have never been allowed to visit the hostages.

NOBARI DISCUSSES CENTRAL BANK RESERVES

Tehran TIMES in English 1 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Tehran--The Iranian Central Bank has $15,000 million in currency reserves, including assets frozen abroad, bank director Alireza Nobari said here Wednesday on his return from an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in London.

About $8,000 million of the amount was frozen by President Jimmy Carter after Iranian students took 50 U.S. Embassy staff hostage here.

Before the Iranian Revolution last February, Iranian currency reserves were $9,000 million, he added.

Meanwhile, Iranian Radio said that total savings have increased in the last year by about $3,300 million, adding that this resulted from an economic recession and severely reduced investments.

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